The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C. under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 11. NO. 23. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1921. WHOLE NO. 543.

"CONTENTMENT" FOR WORKERS; "INCENTIVE" FOR ALL OTHERS

The house has repealed the excess profits tax, and war profiteers escape with their loot if the senate accepts the plan.

One of the arguments used—that the excess profits tax "destroys incentive"—is a favorite cry of labor exploiters, who freely advise labor on the thrill that should come to men who work for work's sake.

But these labor advisers never apply this banquet chatter to themselves. The joy of labor, minus profits, is unknown to them.

"We must have an incentive," they say, while insisting that labor should acquire such a mental attitude that the consciousness of work well done will be the reward for work.

"You will destroy ambition," they say, when labor urges a tax on excess profits. And then wage earners are lectured because they fail to appreciate the joy of laboring under unwholesome conditions for labor's sake and are ambitious to improve their position.

This inconsistency is typical of the labor exploiter. He demands that labor be "contented," while applauding every effort by other groups of citizens who would discard old methods and practices.

Contentment is the crowning virtue of wage earners, in the eyes of labor exploiters who scorn this term when applied to other individuals.

The reason for this is clear—if wage earners are ambitious this means interference with the exploiter's mastery over them.

A contented wage earner is blind to social injustice—that's why the anti-union employer favors him.

The contented wage earner never presents a wage scale to his employer; never protests against long hours, or insanitary work conditions, or aids in creating a public opinion that forces the anti-unionist's political agents to favor remedial laws.

The trade union movement is the expression of normal discontent. It blazes the workers' path to a better and fuller life, and therein is its greatest offense.

It rejects the "hand outs" of those who can only conceive of wage earners being serfs and dependents.

To maintain this serf status anti-unionists ignore ethics and get twisted in their logic—or lack of logic.

To defend this position they make vulgar protests of patriotism and dazzle the unthinking with the ponderous efforts of hired sophists and scribes.

They would have one set of ethics for themselves and another for wage earners. They talk of "the necessity for initiative" in one case and "the need for contentment" in the other.

Labor insists on one standard and rejects the manufactured kind that is intended to protect the dollar at the cost of human beings.

Another Half-Billion "Hand Out" Prepared For Railroads by Congress

Washington, Aug. 27.—The house has approved the Winslow bill, which hands the railroads another half billion dollars. Again the public is told that this will "stimulate industry," as was claimed when the Cummins-Esch bill was being urged, when increased freight and passenger rates were favored, when the railroads demanded wage reductions, and when they insisted on the abrogation of the national agreement with shop men.

In every case the cry has been that "this is the final act to revive industry." Once again the gold brick is sold and the government will put its O. K. on half a billion dollars' worth of railroad securities, sell them to the public and hand the proceeds over to the railroads.

The railroads, in turn, will secure a long-time postponement of the debt they owe the government.

As an indication of what's in store for the people, the house rejected an amendment to the Winslow bill which provided that no part of the half billion dollars could be used to repay the railroads for claims that they lost money during federal control because of the "inefficiency of labor."

The railroads have been developing a public opinion regarding this "inefficiency," which they will undoubtedly capitalize some time in the future.

Speaking generally, the railroads owe the government over half a billion dollars for improvements made during federal control. The government owes the railroads approximately similar amounts. To the average citizen the plan would be to offset one claim against the other, but this would break the consistent record of railroads to always issue bonds, rather than pay a debt.

The Winslow bill provides that the war finance corporation shall take the railroad securities given the government when it improved the railroads, and sell same to the public. This money will then be used to pay the government's debt to the railroads.

A summary of this daring scheme shows that the securities the railroads gave the government as an acknowledgment of its indebtedness is now used by the railroads to float half a billion dollars into their coffers, while the securities are refunded, which is a polite name for postponing payment of debt.

STEEL TRUST WAGES ARE AGAIN REDUCED

New York, Aug. 27.—The millions of surplus the steel corporation piled up during the war does not deter this trust from leading in wage reductions.

Judge Gary has announced a 10 per cent cut, effective August 29. This brings the rate of 46 cents an hour, prior to last May, down to 30 cents an hour, or $2.40 a day for the eight-hour shift and $3.60 for the 12-hour shift.

The latest cut is the third since May 16, when a 20 per cent reduction was made, with assurances to these unorganized workers that business would respond and the mills would quickly resume operations. Sixty days later the time and one-half rate for overtime was eliminated.

When the first cut was made last May, the rate was $4.60 for a 10-hour day. This so-called "high" wage was not specified by propagandists, who led the public to believe that these workers were paid a princely wage, and tons of white paper was used in the campaign to impress upon the public what a paradise the steel mills are.

These workers are now confronted with the problem of meeting living expenses for their families on a wage of 30 cents an hour.

Judge Gary blames the price of steel for the wage cut. When his corporation was making the highest profits in its history it paid $4.60 for a 10-hour day and at a time when the cost of living was 123 per cent over prewar times. This $4.60 did not permit steel workers to meet increased living costs, but now, when steel prices go down, wages are reduced to nearly the prewar scale with living costs still high.

HAZARDS CAUSE STRIKE.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 27.—Electricians employed by the local electric company suspended work because of extra hazards the company refuses to reduce. One grievance is incompetent foremen. The company points to its $1,000 insurance policy in case of death, but the wire men reply that insurance and the company's faith in its incompetents can not undo fatalities. It is declared that this city is one of the most dangerous in the country for electrician's work because of the unusual number of concrete poles and steel cross arms, which endangers life every time a worker climbs one of these poles.

ANTIS SIGN "CONTRACT."

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 27.—Several printing establishments that are resisting the 44-hour week announce that they have agreed to operate on the anti-union shop basis for five years. The organized printing trade employes say that if these employers keep this contract as well as they did with their employes, the latest contract won't last five years.

STRIKEBREAKING CREW CAUSE DEATHS AT SEA

Portland, Ore., Aug. 27.—Strikebreaking seamen and the antiunion policy of vessel owners are responsible for the loss of 40 lives and the steamer Alaska, which struck a reef near Eureka, California.

The vessel was manned by strikebreakers, recruited when the vessel owners, acting with the United States shipping board, reduced wages, re-established the 12-hour work day at sea and refused the request of organized seamen and marine engineers that American citizens be given first preference in employment.

The incompetency of the Alaska's crew can be appreciated when it is recalled that she stayed afloat 27 minutes after she struck the reef. Union sailors declare that a competent crew could man the life boats and get every passenger off in one-third that time, with the remaining time sufficient to pull away from the vortex caused by the sinking ship.

It is stated that the strikebreakers, knew nothing of swinging a life boat filled with men and women free from the ship. Many lives were lost by dropping one end of these boats while the other end was held.

In 1916 the Bear was wrecked in nearly the same spot as the Alaska. The Bear had a trade union crew and all passengers were taken off in an orderly manner. Last year the McCormack line steamer Klamath went down under the same conditions as the Bear, and again no lives were lost.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Aug. 27.—The annual convention of the Michigan state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Tuesday, September 20. In urging affiliates to be fully represented, the federation's officials say:

"No better investment can be made than to send your full quota of delegates that they may be fortified with the personal contact, observation and participation incident to a gathering of hopeful, ambitious, courageous men and women whose mission is that of securing the things of life to which they and their fellows are entitled."

PRESSMEN MAKES GAINS.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Aug. 27.—Aside from progress made in their 44-hour movement, the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union reports several instances where locals have raised wages and improved working conditions.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Hamilton, Ohio, Aug. 27.—The annual convention of the Ohio state federation of labor will be held in this city, beginning Monday, October 10.

LUMBER BARONS REDUCE WAGES;
Then Close Market By Monopoly Prices

Seattle, Wash., Aug. 27.—Less than 35 men, or corporations, have a virtual monopoly of northwestern timber and this, not wages, is responsible for high prices and the paralysis of this industry, says Harry W. Call, secretary-treasurer of the International Union of Timber Workers, in that union's official bulletin.

"Reductions in wages have not sold any more lumber," said Call. "They have not started any more mills and camps. They have not reduced freight rates, and they have not induced the public to buy.

"They are right back at the end of the vicious circle which they started 10 months ago, being ably assisted by their company 'union,' known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen.

"Many logging camps in the Puget sound section, and in British Columbia are closed, the reason being given that there is a surplus of fir in the water. Prices for cedar logs are so high that many mills are forced to suspend operations. Others are operating with a reduction in wages of from 10 to 25 per cent; again the workers are compelled to help pay for the increase in the price of cedar.

"In Seattle, common labor for the saw mills is down to $2.60 per day, and in some cases lower. In some cases employment offices do not state the wages to be paid.

"It is not and has not been the wage rate paid at any stage of the game that has been responsible for the present stagnation in the timber industry. This condition has been charged to three reasons: High wages, high freight rates, and the refusal of the people to buy lumber.

"The truth of the matter is that not to exceed 35 men, or corporations, have a virtual monopoly on this raw material.

"They do not have to sell logs except at their own price.

"The big cost in lumber production today is not labor; it is not freight rates; it is the cost of raw material.

"The public can well believe that the lumber operators did not run full page advertisements in the newspapers for fun. They did it because they hoped to mold public opinion in their direction; they wanted to place the blame anywhere but where it belonged—upon their own shoulders."

Cost of Shoe Labor Is Small

Boston, Aug. 27.—Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal "lifts the lid" on shoe prices, and in explaining why labor refuses to accept wage reductions in this industry he shows who is profiteering.

Before the war, he says, the labor cost of a pair of shoes retailing at $3.50 ranged around 60 cents. Later this shoe sold as high as $12 and the labor cost advanced to $1 or 8½ per cent of the retail price.

"Shoes that retailed at $20 or over would show a still smaller percentage of labor cost in proportion to the selling price at retail," he says.

"During the period of advance, shoe prices were made without reason. The excuse given the consumers was the high cost of material and labor. One man who paid $18 for a pair of shoes was blaming labor for it. He was asked what he supposed labor received for making that pair of shoes and he replied: 'Probably four or five dollars.' When told that labor received less than $1.30 he was astounded.

"For something over a year we have had a falling market for shoe materials. Prices for shoe materials now very nearly equal prewar prices. Yet manufacturers and dealers seem unable to make shoe prices anywhere near pre-war levels.

"A manufacturer said he wanted to make a shoe to sell to dealers at $6, to be sold at retail at $9, and would like a reduction in labor cost. The same shoe used to be sold to the retailer at $2.85 and retailed at $4. Labor receives about 40 cents per pair more on that shoe.

"Labor was asked to contribute from its 40 cents to help the manufacturer sell at $6 what he used to sell at $2.85, when his market for raw materials is nearly the same as before the war.

"There are other instances of proposed reduction in labor cost that have no better foundation than the one just related. It is not strange that labor is not enthusiastic to co-operate for such ends.

"These policies are among the causes of the public resentment against the shoe business—that results in the jeering of a shoe manufacturer on the floor of the house of representatives at Washington.

"We know there are circumstances somewhat extenuating, such as high rents, freight and other expenses, but still it is in order for manufacturers and dealers to introduce a little team work into their lead pencils.

"Labor declines to be the goat for the public prejudice to pay the freight for margins that a few years ago would have seemed extremely extravagant."

CONVICTS MISTREATED.

Little Rock, Ark., Aug. 27.—Mrs. Laura Connor, woman member of the state penitentiary commission, has created an uproar by her expose of conditions in the state penitentiary. She has made public a series of reforms which are needed, and which include the observance by the commission of state laws and its own rules. Among her recommendations are:

That a way be devised by which the sweaty garments of convicts be left in the wash house to dry at night, to prevent foul odor in the sleeping quarters.

That convicts be required to work but nine hours daily from July 15 until September 15 and also be required to bathe twice a week.

That the law regulating corporal punishment, requiring that beatings shall not exceed 10 strokes, be enforced.

That the law requiring that each punishment inflicted be recorded, be enforced.

That minor infractions of the rules be punished with longer hours, harder jobs and cutting off privileges, as a substitute for the strap.

That food be ample and that convicts be permitted to make complaints to the commission without being punished for it.

Mrs. Connor is denounced as a "visionary." One newspaper declared her demands are "unreasonable;" that "no sound business man would indorse them," and that "the men members of the board would continue to oppose them."

COMPANY "UNION" IS TRICK.

Washington, Aug. 27.—"It is a most serious matter for any organization of workers in any occupation to represent themselves to be a trade union when they are organized in the interest of employers," says President Gompers, in calling attention of A. F. of L. affiliates to a company "union" known as the National Vaudeville Artists, Inc.

At the last A. F. of L. convention it was shown that the National Vaudeville Artists, Inc., is being used by the Vaudeville Managers' Protective association to defeat the legitimate American Artistes Federation. Testimony before the federal trade commission sustain the charge that the National Vaudeville Artists, Inc., is a boss controlled "union" and maintained by theatrical managers.

BLAME LAWLESS OFFICIALS.

New York, Aug. 27.—The New York World makes this comment on the civil war in West Virginia:

"As a matter of fact the state government is always willing to intervene when violence is threatened against the operators, but it has never tried its hand at enforcing the law where the rights of the miners are in question. If West Virginia had a government worth mentioning, there would be less war and less excuse for war within its boundaries."

NORMALCY IN LUMBER.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 27.—The lumber industry in this section is headed toward normalcy. A local employment agent wants 50 men for the Long-Bell Lumber company at Kelso. Wages will be $2.50 a day. Board at the company boarding house will be $1.20 a day or $8.40 a week. Employes will have to furnish their own blankets.

Trade unionists suggest that workers pay this concern for the privilege of being employed.

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS.

Cleveland, Aug. 27.—Figures issued by the Cleveland Trust company show an employment shrinkage of 45 per cent in 55 plants which a year ago employed 12,263 women workers and in June, this year, employed 6,717.

Regarding men workers the report shows that in 50 plants employing 50,000 workers a year ago, on Aug. 1 this year there were only 20,950 employed. Last year the average weekly earnings of unskilled workers in these plants was $28; now it is reported as $16.80, a slash of 40 per cent.

It is interesting to note that the same authority shows that out of every thousand automobiles in the world, 843 are owned in the United States—but not, it may safely be assumed, by the workers who are subjects of the Cleveland Trust company report.

MINERS BUY HOME.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 27.—The Illinois mine workers have purchased a fine six-story building in the center of the city, which will be used as their headquarters. The purchase price is announced as $275,000.

DISPROVE COURT CHARGE.

Washington, Aug. 27.—Chief Justice Taft, of the United States supreme court, has refuted the charge that courts always attempt to enlarge their jurisdiction.

He has refused to umpire a baseball game.

BURNS, "GREAT DETECTIVE," HEADS U. S. SECRET SERVICE

Washington, Aug. 27.—The appointment of William J. Burns as head of the reorganized United States secret service is announced by Attorney General Daugherty. It is stated that all secret service branches of the government will be placed under the control of Burns. The attorney general is quoted in the public press:

"I have known Mr. Burns personally for 30 years and have watched him develop his specialty. He is familiar with all of the departments of government, is an intelligent and courageous man and at this time especially is considered to be as high class a man as could be secured to assume the important duties assigned him."

The power now possessed by Burns recalls the pardon by President Taft, in 1912, of Willard N. Jones, convicted in Oregon on the charge of violating federal land laws. In favoring the pardon, Attorney General Wickersham presented affidavits to President Taft which proved that Burns, who was employed by the prosecution, investigated every prospective juror in several counties, and no one was accepted as a juror except those whom Burns reported would convict.

The background of this case was a political feud between two factions of the then dominant party. Burns aided the faction in control by securing a jury that would "railroad" Jones to the penitentiary.

Burns carried his jury fixing so far that he sent the following telegram in cipher code to the office of Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock:

"Jury commissioners cleaned out old box from which trial jurors were selected and put in 600 names, every one of which was investigated before they were placed in the box. This confidential."

"There are also on file affidavits of persons who claim that they were induced, through intimidation and threats, to testify falsely in the Jones case," continued Attorney General Wickersham.

"In line with these practices it is further shown that one of the defendants, with Jones, is a man named Sorensen, while he was presumptively being tried by the government, was in the active employment of Burns and received compensation from the government under the name of George Edwards.

"In this way Burns kept tab on Jones, and the latter, relying upon Sorensen, because he was a fellow defendant, accepted as jurors persons to whom he would otherwise have objected.

"I need not go further in a recital of the high-handed conduct on the part of officers of the prosecution in these cases.

"In this connection I would say that Mr. Burns has been given the fullest opportunity to make a statement. The pardon attorney went to New York and interviewed him by appointment, but could not obtain a statement from him, though he informed Mr. Burns that he had with him all of the documents that had been filed and would be glad to show him every one and receive what comment he had to make."

On this evidence, submitted by his chief legal adviser, President Taft pardoned the victim of the present head of the United States secret service system, who now has unlimited power and opportunity to duplicate his Oregon "frame-up."

About the time Attorney General Wickersham made public his expose, the "great detective" said:

"Private detectives, 90 per cent of them, as a class, are the worst lot of crooks and blackmailing scoundrels that live outside of prisons."

COURT AGAIN UPSETS U. S. CHILD LABOR LAW

Greensboro, N. C., Aug. 27.—The federal child labor law, which imposes a federal tax of 10 per cent on the profits derived from products on which child labor is employed, is unconstitutional, rules Federal Judge Boyd.

The court is shocked at this assault on the theory of state's rights, just because a lot of children are exploited in cotton mills of this state and elsewhere. He says this law "is a usurpation of authority and a violation of the sovereign rights of the state."

This is the second time that Judge Boyd has started attacks on anti-child labor laws. His first attack was sustained by the United States supreme court, June 3, 1918, in one of its well known 4-to-5 decisions. This law was known as the Owen-Keating act, and debarred from interstate commerce the products of any establishment which employed children under 14 years of age or where children under the age of 16 years were employed more than eight hours a day.

Congress then passed another law (the one now set aside by Judge Boyd). This act was based on the taxing power of congress and provides that the federal internal revenue department shall collect as a tax 10 per cent of the profits derived from products on which child labor is employed.

Judge Boyd insisted that the regulation of labor is a state function which cannot be evaded by the United States, either directly or indirectly.

PEON PLAN REJECTED BY AMERICAN LEGION

Washington, Aug. 27.—The American legion is with the A. F. of L. in opposition to house joint resolution 171, urged by Hawaiian sugar planters, and which is intended to admit Chinese coolies in bond to the Hawaiian islands, thereby re-establishing peonage on American soil.

Information regarding the fact that Leonard Withington, legion committee man from Hawaii, wiring from Texas, had telegraphed support of the coolie resolution to Congressman Johnson, chairman of the house immigration committee, brought from the legion's national headquarters a warm message of support for labor's position.

Lemuel Bolles, national adjutant of the legion, communicated with President Gompers and with Congressman Johnson. In his letter to the latter, Mr. Bolles said:

"In the telegram from Mr. Withington he expressed an opinion with reference to the proposal to permit Chinese coolies in Hawaii, which is not the position of the American legion on this matter. It is a matter of regret that we feel it necessary to advise you that Mr. Withington had no authority to address you in an official manner on this matter as representing the American legion, and we must request that you consider his telegram in the light of an individual opinion only and not as representing that of the American legion.

"The American legion is opposed to any lowering of the standard of immigration now existing, and any action which would tend to lower the standard of living of the American working man in any part of the United States or of its territories."

Following Mr. Bolles' letter, Alvin Owsley, representing the legion's national commander, called at A. F. of L. headquarters and repeated the statements by Mr. Bolles, and declared that the legion's position is substantially that of the A. F. of L.

W. VA. LAW OPERATES.

Williamson, W. Va., Aug. 27.—The recently-enacted state law which permits summoning jurymen from outside the trial county has been applied in the trial of miners and other citizens of Matewan accused of killing seven Baldwin-Feltz detectives. Organized labor opposed this jury proposal when it was being considered by the legislature.

FAVORS ANTI-UNIONISM.

Cleveland, Ohio, Aug. 27.—A short time ago the local chamber of commerce received much publicity because of its "labor solution" plan. The novelty has worn off, however, and now these business men line up with other anti-union employers. A referendum vote shows that 3,403 favor anti-unionism, 244 oppose and 174 are non-committal.

FOOD COSTS INCREASE.

Washington, Aug. 27.—The United States bureau of labor statistics again shatters the propaganda of cheap wage advocates that food costs are being rapidly reduced.

The bureau states that there was an increase of 2.7 per cent in the retail cost of food to the average family in July as compared with June.

During this period wholesale prices for farm products and foodstuffs also increased, the former group advancing 1 3-4 per cent and the latter 1 1-2 per cent.

Handful of Workers Now Gigantic Union

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 27.—On September 15, 1892, at 10 a. m., President Gompers addressed a handful of street car men in this city who gathered from various sections of the country to launch the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Men of America.

During the intervening 29 years this organization has reduced hours, increased wages, improved working conditions and established a system of benefits.

On September 15 next, at 10 o'clock in the morning, in this city, President Gompers will address the annual convention of this organization, now grown to immense influence and numerical strength throughout the North American continent.

Food Prices Are "Doctored," Is British Workers' Claim

London, England, Aug. 27.—British workers charge that food prices, issued by the British ministry of labor, are inaccurate.

The government's figures are important, as some employments have adopted the principle of sliding wage scales based on the cost of living.

The workers appointed a committee to investigate the government's figures, which allege that food costs increased 128 per cent from July, 1914, to May, 1921. The workers' committee consisted of representatives of the trade union movement, the parliamentary committee of the British Trade Union Congress, the labor party and the co-operative movement. The committee's investigators found that food prices increased 150 per cent during the 1914-1921 period.

The workers are now demanding that the government adopt a cost of living index number "in keeping with the actual figures as to the cost of living."

DEFLATION FOR WORKERS.

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 27.—"In all this talk about readjustment and reconstruction, why is it that the pressure is always brought to bear upon those whose standards of life and every-day existence would be demoralized by a reduction of wages, and why this drive to reduce wages first?" asks President Gompers, in a statement on present conditions.

"Wouldn't it be more humane," said the trade unionist, "to start with 'them as have' and whose profits or incomes derived from their surplus savings would be the only factor affected?

"There is a dangerous concept among many that automobiles and ice cream are all right for those who can't serve society and who produce nothing, but that the toilers must enjoy nothing of the good things of life.

"The women know that the cost of living has not come down. Instead, with profiteering going unchecked and unrestrained, the cost of living is going up, especially rents. Ninety per cent of the homes in the United States were built before the war, but the exorbitant rents gouged out of the tenants by the profiteering and unscrupulous landlords is blamed on the high cost of labor during the war."

FARM TENANCY IN U. S.

Washington, Aug. 27.—Although tenant farming is advancing its lines into American agriculture, its rate of advance is rapidly diminishing, says the department of agriculture, which bases its opinion on preliminary reports made by the 1920 census bureau. While losses in the size of the farm tenant population in 20 states amounted to over 57,000, gains in 28 states totaled nearly 160,000. Out of 6,500,000 farm operators in 1920, 2,500,000 did not own the land they farmed. These tenants operated 38.1 per cent of the farms of the United States. Texas and Georgia lead in farm tenancy, the former with 232,309 and the latter with 206,875. These, together with six other southern states have more tenants than the other 40 states. Probably 600,000, or between 45 and 50 per cent of these southern tenants will be classified as colored by the 1920 census.

RECORD UNEMPLOYMENT.

Albany, N. Y., Aug. 27.—The number of New York factory workers unemployed in June was lower than in any month since June, 1914, says the state department of labor. The total decline in employment during the present depression, covering a period of 15 months, amounts to 28 per cent.

Prior to 1921 the lowest point in employment since June, 1914, was recorded in January, 1915, when manufacturing activity reached the bottom of the depression of 1914-1915. The number of factory workers in June, 1921, was 2 per cent lower than the January, 1915, figure.

THE GUNMAN'S PARADISE.

Indianapolis, Aug. 27.—The United Mine Workers' Journal makes this reference to McDowell county, West Virginia, where Sid Hatfield was murdered:

"McDowell county, West Virginia, is the place where the life of a union miner is worth nothing. Thugs and gunmen, whose salaries are paid by coal companies while they serve as deputy sheriffs, run wild over this county, assaulting and murdering whom they please. They have no regard for law or common decency. Their sole mission is to fight the United Mine Workers of America."

TAX BILL OPPOSED BY LABOR; TREATS WAR LOOT LOVINGLY

Washington, Aug. 27.—In a final effort to defeat the new tax bill, which passed the house on Aug. 20, representatives of organized labor, headed by President Gompers, called on congressmen to send the bill back to the committee, that glaring inequalities could be remedied. The plea was ignored.

Trade unionists will carry the fight to the senate, and it is predicted that a battle royal will be staged in the upper branch by a group of progressive senators before the measure is approved by that body.

As passed by the house, the bill makes no attempt to tax the loot of war profiteers. The tax on excess profits is removed, and the surtax, or extra income tax, on swollen fortunes and great corporate interests is cut in two.

The exemption of $2,000 for married men is increased to $2,500, and the $200 for each dependent is increased to $400. In referring to these exemptions, the organized workers said:

"We are not deceived by the sop thrown to the people in the form of increased exemptions in the lower brackets of the income tax. We are aware that those who escape a trifle in that respect will pay more heavily elsewhere.

"Government tax experts themselves have testified that the excess profits tax is a fair and honest tax because it is a tax on ability to pay. So it is with the surtax and the graduated tax on the higher brackets of the income tax and these should stay as just and proper provisions.

"It has been estimated that excess profits, above a reasonable return, pocketed by a favored class during the war, totaled fully $8,000,000,000. It is clear that to allow this great tribute to favored ones to escape while wage earners are compelled to carry an added burden, is an outrage.

"The country will demand an accounting if the present bill becomes law. In the name of the wage earners of America, as their representatives, we make solemn protest."

The bill not only permits profiteers to escape with their war loot, but it actually permits profiteers to pay less taxes in proportion to the amount that they gouge from the people.

This statement was made by Congressman Oldfield on the floor of the house. He presented figures to support his claim that the flat corporation tax of 12½ per cent as a substitute for the excess profits tax favored the extortioners.

The law maker declared that there is not an expert in the treasury department who will dispute the accuracy of his figures.

"Under the present law a corporation with $50,000 capital stock is taxed 10 per cent, or $50, when it makes 5 per cent profit. Under the law as passed it would pay 12½ per cent, or $62.50," he said.

"When it makes 6 per cent profit it would pay $25 more; when it makes 8 per cent it would pay $50 more; when it makes 10 per cent it would pay $75 more; when it makes 15 per cent it would pay the treasury $47.50 more than the present law. Now, when the corporation begins to profiteer a little bit more and makes 20 per cent, it pays $340 less. When it makes 25 per cent it will pay $1,177.50 less than under the present law.

"When it makes 33 1-3 per cent it will pay $2,093.24 less than under the present law. When the same corporation profiteers to the extent of making 50 per cent on its invested capital, under the provisions of this bill it will pay $4,285 less taxes than under the present law.

"In other words, the more these corporations profiteer on the people the less taxes they will have to pay."

BATTLE SHIP STAYS; BUT CAN BE BOMBED

Washington, Aug. 27.—Air planes can sink or seriously damage any vessel, but the battle ship is still the backbone of the fleet and the bulk of the nation's defense.

This summarizes the report to the secretaries of war and navy by the joint board on the bombing tests held recently off the Virginia capes. The report gives the air plane credit for sinking a German battle ship in the tests, and recommends that methods be devised to offset the new offensive.

In this connection, the board says: "Air craft carrying high capacity high explosive bombs of sufficient size can sink or seriously damage any naval vessel as present constructed, provided such projectiles can be placed in the water close alongside the vessel.

"Furthermore, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to build any type of vessel of sufficient strength to withstand the destructive force that can be obtained with the largest bombs that air planes may be able to carry shore bases."

After stating that it may be "impossible" to build battle ships that can withstand the air plane, the board declares that battle ships are still the backbone of the fleet and the bulwark of the nation's defense.

"The air plane, like the submarine destroyer and the mine, has added to the dangers to which battle ships are exposed, but these have not made the battle ship obsolete," it is stated.

The report urges the highest development of air plane offensive and the speedy development of anti-craft armament to offset advances by other nations in this mode of warfare.

OPPOSE ANTI-PICKET LAW.

Washington, Aug. 27.—Governor Morrison, of North Carolina, denounced the anti-picketing ordinance passed by the Concord (N. C.) city council when he talked to striking mill workers in that city, according to Edgar Wallace, A. F. of L. representative, who has just returned from Concord. The governor said the ordinance was in contradiction to the laws of the state and nation.

Troops are patrolling the streets of Concord and machine guns are trained upon the town from the roofs of the mills, although there has been no disturbance. The governor said the troops would be withdrawn if he had assurance that law and order would be continued. The strikers are giving this assurance by volunteering to serve as deputy sheriffs, and if the sheriff accepts these deputies a demand will be made for the withdrawal of the troops.

The strike was called because of a wage reduction that would make the average rate but 10 per cent above prewar wages.

DISARM OR BE RUINED.

Williamson, Mass., Aug. 27.—Europe faces the alternative of reduction in armament or ruin, said Viscount James Bryce, in a lecture in this city.

"As the greater European countries are already beggared by the last war," he said, "it is plain that they will be, ere long, ruined by the continuance of expenditure on the present scale."

In expressing the hope that the invited nations will attend the disarmament conference, called by the United States, the speaker said:

"No difficulties can be allowed to deter the nations from grappling with an enterprise of such urgent importance."

U. S. EMPLOYES CONFER.

Washington, Aug. 27.—In announcing the convention of the National Federation of Federal Employes, in New Orleans, September 12 to 16, officers of that organization state that the aim of the convention will be "co-operation with President Harding, to put 'more business in the government' and to 'put more heart into the civil service.'"

It is stated that "several hundred delegates from 246 groups of government workers, organized as the National Federation of Federal Employes, with branches in every state and territory, and representing every government service, will meet to promote the program of readjustment which has been launched by President Harding and General Dawes."

GOMPERS IN CANADA TALKS ON LABOR'S AIM

Toronto, Ontario, Aug. 27.—On his recent Canadian trip President Gompers was asked by a representative of a local newspaper: "What is the ultimate goal of labor?"

The newspaper printed this reply, given extemporaneously to the reporter by the A. F. of L. executive:

"The ultimate aim of labor is a better day, nothing else. People who look to a sudden upheaval, a catastrophe, a change overnight, are all wrong. The betterment of the world will come very slowly, and when it comes it will last. Other changes cannot stand for long because that sort of thing is merely action and reaction.

"What do you mean by a better day?" queried the reporter. "Do you mean higher wages and shorter hours for labor?"

Mr. Gompers removed his cigar. "That is much of it," he said, deliberately, "but what I mean is a better day for everyone. I don't know how else to describe it. Higher wages mean that the workers become part of the general public. When a man is ground down under a low wage he does not belong to the public—the world ignores him," and concluding with a striking sentence, "There is more in the 25 cent raise in the worker's envelope than thy philosophy dreams, O sweet Horatio!"

Mr. Gompers said that the better day did not mean communism. "I prefer to let the people of that day label their own condition," he said. "Names are misleading."

Asked as to the effect of the war on labor in general, the great leader replied: "The war inspired us all. It gave us new energy. It showed us liberty—not license, please note—but liberty and freedom. It gave us a vision we shall not forget."

These are the views of the man who 40 years ago organized the workers of the continent into a central federation, the man who today leads an army of over 4,000,000 followers—Samuel Gompers, apostle of "a better day."

WHO GETS THE PROFITS?

Washington, Aug. 27. — Fruit growers at Hope, Ark., forwarded Senator Caraway of Arkansas a series of figures that may answer the question, "Who gets the profits?"

One car load of cantaloupes was sold to Pittsburgh, Pa., for $586.20. Freight charges from Hope was $361.16; drayage, $17.31; commission, $58.62; crates, packing and loading, $187.28; total, $624.37, leaving a loss of $38.17 to grower.

A car load of cantaloupes was sold to Chicago for $448.60. Freight, commission and loading charges totaled $355.97, leaving $92.63 to the grower for his expenses, labor and profit.

Thirty bushels of peaches were sold to St. Louis, Mo., for $75. Express and commission charges totaled $54.73, leaving $20.27 to the grower.

Fifty-nine bushels of beans, peaches and cucumbers were sold to Topeka, Kan., for $125. Express and commission charges were $95.70, leaving the grower but $29.30.

COSSACKS AT OLD GAME.

Charlestown, W. Va., Aug. 27.—"Tricked again" moan citizens who favored the establishment of cossacks in West Virginia. These citizens believed the fairy tale that a state police system would end detectives and private armies maintained by the coal owners.

Trade unionists warned these citizens that they were legalizing the thug system, and that instead of the private armies being withdrawn, they would be aided by the cossacks.

This prophecy has been fulfilled, and the aforesaid citizens are trying to get satisfaction for being duped by calling the coal owners hard names.

CAN'T ENFORCE NEW LAW.

Washington, Aug. 27.—The newly-enacted packers' and stockyard legislation to regulate meat packers and stockyards, which was signed by the president on August 15, carried no appropriation to make the law effective, and the secretary of agriculture asks congress to vote $240,000 for this purpose.

INCREASE COMPENSATION.

Brussels, Belgium, Aug. 27.—Because of the increased cost of living the government favors increasing the maximum compensation for industrial accidents to 1,200 francs.